107TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H.R. 2912

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program for partnerships between United States research organizations and those in developing countries for research on plant biotechnology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 20, 2001

Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program for partnerships between United States research organizations and those in developing countries for research on plant biotechnology.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. FINDINGS.
- 4 The Congress makes the following findings:
- 5 (1) The National Science Foundation has made
- 6 important contributions to advance the knowledge
- 7 base for plant biotechnology.

- 1 (2) Plant biotechnology research has the poten-2 tial to help developing countries increase food secu-3 rity.
 - (3) Plant biotechnology research can be used to improve the quality and nutritional content of food.
 - (4) Biotechnology offers the prospect of delivering vaccines to immunize against life-threatening illnesses through agricultural products in a safe and effective manner that overcomes the infrastructure and cost limitations faced by traditional vaccination methods in the developing world.
 - (5) Research partnerships between scientists in the United States and developing countries will help strengthen the capabilities of those countries to develop and implement applications of plant biotechnology.
 - (6) Research funding levels at the National Science Foundation and elsewhere are obstacles to the use of plant biotechnology to address problems in the developing world.

21 SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The National Science Foundation shall establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)),

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- 1 nonprofit organizations, or consortia of such entities to es-
- 2 tablish research partnerships for supporting the develop-
- 3 ment of plant biotechnology targeted to the needs of the
- 4 developing world.
- 5 (b) Partnerships.—
- 6 (1) Developing Nation Partners.—In order
- 7 to be eligible to receive a grant under this section,
- 8 the grantee shall enter into a partnership with 1 or
- 9 more research institutions in 1 or more developing
- 10 nations.
- 11 (2) For-profit partners.—Partnerships may
- also include for-profit companies involved in plant
- biotechnology.
- 14 (3) Special consideration.—In making
- awards under this section, the National Science
- 16 Foundation shall give special consideration to part-
- 17 nerships that include a Historically Black College or
- 18 University, a Hispanic serving institution, or a tribal
- 19 college or university.
- 20 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this sec-
- 21 tion shall be used for support of research activities in plant
- 22 biotechnology targeted to the needs of the developing
- 23 world. Such activities may include—
- 24 (1) basic genomic research on crops grown in
- 25 the developing world;

1	(2) development of plant biotechnologies that
2	will advance and expedite the development of im-
3	proved cultivars, including those that are pest-resist-
4	ant, produce increased yield, or increase tolerance to
5	stress;

- (3) development of technologies to produce pharmaceutical compounds such as vaccines and medications in plants that can be grown in the developing world; and
- 10 (4) research on the impact of plant bio-11 technology on the social, political, and economic con-12 ditions in countries in the developing world.
- 13 (d) Competitive Merit Review.—Grants under 14 this Act shall be awarded on a merit-reviewed competitive 15 basis.

16 SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-18 tional Science Foundation \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 19 2002, \$9,000,000 for fiscal year 2003, and \$9,000,000 20 for fiscal year 2004 to carry out this Act.

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